

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 22 May 2022**

'Recognising God's image'



"Japanese Jesus"

Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

We are here to praise and enjoy God
With body and soul, mind and heart
With song and word, with hands and feet.
Here we celebrate the differences that might otherwise divide us:
differences of age, of body, of culture, of language, of identity, of ability.
Here we put things in perspective,
celebrate what matters,
laugh about what we take too seriously
and cry about things that truly touch our hearts.
We are here to worship God
So may it be this morning.

Hymn Bring many names

- 1 Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory,
living, loving God :
Hail and Hosanna !
Bring many names !

- 2 Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation,
genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna,
strong mother God!

- 3 Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving
till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna,
warm father God!

- 5 Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice,
giving all you have :
Hail and Hosanna,
young, growing God !

- 6 Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing,
everlasting home :
Hail and Hosanna,
great, living God !

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Eternal God

No language, no words of ours, can ever fully convey you or hope to contain you.

You use language in a different way.

You embodied language in your love letter to the world,

In Jesus, the Christ,

known to us as The Word.

As we come to worship you today

we are aware of both the gifts and limitations of language.

We give thanks when language forms a bridge rather than a barrier.

We give thanks for those who seem unable to find one satisfying word
with which to describe you,

yet whose faith is constantly renewed by a wordless awe
in the presence of unnameable love.

Lord, forgive us when we use language to divide or deride.
When others hurt us by using words as weapons
help us to resist the temptations of revenge or retribution
and turn instead to reconciliation.

Help us acknowledge where language has been used throughout your creation as a tool of
occupation and oppression.

Give us fresh appreciation of the value of silence,
silence that can be more eloquent than any spoken words.

We come before you now in silence, each aware of where we have fallen short this week
or missed the mark.

(silence)

Loving God, as we seek to forgive others for their shortcomings,
help us also to forgive ourselves for our own shortcomings, for which we are assured you
have already forgiven us.

Hear us now, as together with all your people, we pray the words you taught your friends,
saying (*please pray in whatever language brings you closest to God*):

**Our Father in heaven.
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

'Meaningful words'

Dedication of offerings

**Gracious and holy God,
accept all that we offer to you:
our resources of money, time and talent,
our brokenness, our words, our hope, our lives.**

**Bless and transform all that we offer
and all that we are wise to hold back,
that new life may be celebrated and shared in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sharing Christ's Peace

The peace of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.
And also with you.

Hymn O thou my soul, bless God the Lord (Psalm 103)

1 O thou my soul, bless God the Lord;
and all that in me is
be stirred up his holy name
to magnify and bless.

2 Bless, O my soul, the Lord thy God,
and not forgetful be
of all his gracious benefits
he hath bestowed on thee.

3 All thine iniquities who doth
most graciously forgive;
who thy diseases all and pains
doth heal, and thee relieve.

Verse 5 in English and Japanese, with transliteration.

5 Who with abundance of good things
doth satisfy thy mouth;
so that even as the eagle's age,
renewèd is thy youth.

御霊を注ぎて 鷲のごとく Mitama wo sosogite
Washi no gotoku
命と力に 満たしたもう Inochi to chikara ni
mitashitamou

Scripture Reading Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

A Conversation: Recognising God's image in others

Hymn O God, we bear the imprint of your face

- 1 O God, we bear the imprint of your face :
the colours of our skin are your design,
and what we have of beauty in our race
as man or woman, you alone define,
who stretched a living fabric on our frame
and gave to each a language and a name.
- 2 Where we are torn and pulled apart by hate
because our race, our skin is not the same ;
while we are judged unequal by the state
and victims made because we own our name,
humanity reduced to little worth,
dishonoured is your living face on earth.
- 3 O God, we share the image of your Son
whose flesh and blood are ours, whatever skin,
in his humanity we find our own,
and in his family our proper kin :
Christ is the brother we still crucify,
his love the language we must learn, or die.

Prayers of the People

Loving God, you hold all suffering and joy in your being
We bring to you our prayers for others
In doing so we realise that we do not need to tell you to care,
For all of life is known and dear to you.
Rather, it is our own hearts and minds we open when we pray beyond ourselves.

This morning we hold in our hearts and our prayers....

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Hymn One more step along the world we go (adapted)

- 1 One more step along the world we go,
one more step along the world we go ;
from the old things to the new
keep us travelling along with you :
*And it's from the old we travel to the new ;
keep us travelling along with you.*
- 2 Round the corners of the world we turn,
more and more about the world we learn ;
all the new things that we see
you'll be looking at along with me :
- 4 Give us courage when the world is rough,
keep us loving though the world is tough ;
leap and sing in all we do,
keep us travelling along with you :

- 5 You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me ;
ever old and ever new,
keep us travelling along with you :

Sending and blessing

Go out into the world
Knowing that, whatever language is spoken,
the speaker embodies the image of God.

Go out as a bearer of God's image
to reflect God's love in the world.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit
be with you this day and every day.

Threefold Amen

Sending music

Worship Leaders: Rosie Magee and Rae Fujimori

Organist/pianist: Jamie Turnbull

Scripture reader: John Martin

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Ruth Forrester, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott,
Phillipa Burgess, Amy Marcham

Sources:

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Scripture reading taken from the New Revised Standard Version

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